

# LOUISIANANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Louisianans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Louisiana. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Louisiana.*

## INCOME: LOUISIANANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Louisiana was \$36,536.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Louisiana was \$37,442, a modest increase of 2.5 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN LOUISIANA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Louisiana had 797,000 adults without insurance, (18.2 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Louisiana had 767,000 adults without insurance, (18.8 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Louisiana had 109,150 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup> If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, Louisiana will face a funding shortfall of 3,748,000.<sup>6</sup>

## EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN LOUISIANA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Louisiana was \$6,304.<sup>7</sup> In 2005, it was \$7,973, a 26 percent increase.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Louisiana was \$22,154.<sup>9</sup> In 2005, it was \$26,583, a 20 percent increase.<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Louisianans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 45,063<sup>11</sup>
- Number of Louisianans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 52,076<sup>12</sup>

## GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR LOUISIANA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Louisiana was \$1.371 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Louisiana is \$2.342 a gallon.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Louisiana was \$2,161.<sup>15</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Louisiana is \$3,691, \$1,530 (70.8 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>16</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: LOUISIANANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Louisiana – 739,180<sup>17</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Louisiana – \$788<sup>18</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: LOUISIANANS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Louisianans killed in Iraq – 59<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Louisianans wounded in Iraq – 460<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Louisianans killed in Afghanistan – 8<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Louisianans wounded in Afghanistan – 10<sup>22</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Louisiana – 366,957<sup>23</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING LOUISIANA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 91 estates in Louisiana paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- Only 54 estates in Louisiana will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>25</sup>
- In contrast, 274,000 workers in Louisiana would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.<sup>26</sup>

## **CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING IS DISAPPEARING**

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 13,023,594<sup>27</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 4,229,555<sup>28</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST LOUISIANANS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Louisianans.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Louisiana residents each received an average of \$2,272 in tax cuts, while middle class Louisiana residents received only \$358.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Louisiana residents will receive an average of \$27,316 in tax cuts, while middle class Louisiana residents will only receive \$650.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Louisiana residents will each receive an average of \$58,107 in tax cuts, while middle class Louisiana residents will only receive \$741.<sup>31</sup>

**The richest Louisianans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Louisianans received 6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.9 percent of the tax cut.<sup>32</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Louisianans will get 23.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.1 percent of the tax cut.<sup>33</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Louisianans will get 43.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.0 percent of the tax cut.<sup>34</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Louisianans.**

- In 2010, the richest Louisianans will receive an average of \$5,612 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Louisianans will be getting over 42.5 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>35</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Louisianans will receive an average of \$16 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 2.3 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>36</sup>

### **SOURCES**

- 1: US Census Bureau
- 2: US Census Bureau
- 3: US Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage: 2001.  
[<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html>]
- 4: Bureau of Labor Statistics / Bureau of the Census Current Population Survey, 3/06.  
[[http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06\\_000.htm](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm)]
- 5: Congressional Research Service, SCHIP: A Brief Overview, 9/21/06.
- 6: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, SCHIP Finance Update, 9/21/06.
- 7: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 8: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 9: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 10: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 11: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 12: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 13: Federal Highway Administration [<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/mmfr/jan01/mfr50101.htm>]
- 14: *Fuel Gauge Report*, 9/25/06
- 15: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 16: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 17: Social Security Online, Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets, 1/06.  
[<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm>]
- 18: Social Security Online, Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets, 1/06.  
[<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm>]
- 19: [[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE\\_OEF\\_OIF.pdf](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)]
- 20: [[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE\\_OEF\\_OIF.pdf](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)]
- 21: [[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE\\_OEF\\_OIF.pdf](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)]
- 22: [[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE\\_OEF\\_OIF.pdf](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)]
- 23: House Democratic Leader. [<http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc>]
- 24: Center for Budget Priorities, Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State, 8/4/06. [<http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm>]

- 25: United for a Fair Economy [[www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html](http://www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html)]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
- 26: Center for Budget Priorities, Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State, 8/4/06. [<http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm>]
- 27: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.
- 28: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.
- 29: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 30: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 31: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 32: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 33: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 34: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 35: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 36: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05 Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes. [<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]

